1   Application No. 10/567,534

2   CLAIMS

3   LISTING OF CLAIMS

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5   1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials

6   comprising:

7   a database component operative to maintain:

8   one or more hospital patient database components and their one or

9   more hospital databases and their corresponding plurality of patient names and

10   their medical records, wherein said hospital patient database components are in

11   communication with one or more medical practice database components and

12   their corresponding plurality of specialties and their corresponding plurality of

13   patient names and their medical records,

14   a clinical studies database component and its corresponding plurality of

15   clinical studies;

16   a communications component to receive changes to said database

17   component; and

18   a processor programmed to:

19   periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies ~~without reliance on~~

20   ~~calculation of probability based inferences of matching,~~ and generate reports to

21   matched medical practices in said medical practice database component having

22   one or more patients matched to at least one clinical study.

23   2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein:

24   said database component identifies patient names associated with each medical

25   practice in said medical practice database component; and

26   said processor generates reports to medical practices having identified patients, said

27   reports including a listing of prospective patients for at least one clinical trial.

28   3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

29   a searching somponent for searching said clinical studies database component, and

30   said one or more hospital patient database components,

31   wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive searching order

32   instructions.

33   4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein:

34   said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary search parameter

35   priority, <u>based on the type of data requested,</u> wherein said search parameter priority is

36   set to search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.

37   5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein:

38   Said search parameter priority is set to ~~search free text keywords or a phrase~~

39   <u>perform text analysis</u> last.

40   6. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further

41   programmed to convert database information from incompatible operating systems to

42   the operating system of the processor.

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7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug and clinical device trials.

8. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies comprising:

    identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;

    identifying at least one clinical study;

    maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said hospital database and each said clinical study: and

    comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital database to one or more clinical trials, ~~without reliance on calculation of probability based inferences of matching~~ utilizing a computer to perform said comparison.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

    maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles associated with a corresponding medical practice: and

    notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient profiles matches the requirements of said clinical studies.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a database further comprises converting data from an incompatible operating system to the operating system of the processor.